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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,846	02/09/2001	Toshikazu Uchiyama	172A3075PCT	2750

7590                    02/01/2002

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EXAMINER	
DOUGHERTY, THOMAS M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/762,846	UCHIYAMA, TOSHIKAZU
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thomas M. Dougherty	2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 February 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)              | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims do not provide sufficient structure to achieve the claimed functionality. In some of the claims, the components or circuits are not noted as being connected, but are merely listed. In other claims, some structural components are connected while others are left hanging, not connected to other components. This results in indefiniteness. In claim 2, there is no proper antecedent basis for citation of "said power source". Claim 6 sites "said constant-voltage circuit" which has no proper antecedent basis in the parent claim. In claim 7, there is no means extant to control "a drive level of said piezo-vibrator".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (JP 9-36661). Kato shows (fig. 1) a piezo-oscillator circuit comprising an oscillator circuit (2) and an amplifier circuit (1), and a constant-voltage circuit (also 1), in which a power source (Vcc) and said oscillator circuit (2) are connected through said constant voltage circuit to supply a constant voltage (output of TR1 emitter) to said oscillator circuit (2). As Kato shows the claimed structural features, his device is regarded such that wherein when a voltage of said power source is equal to or higher than a predetermined value, a function of said constant-voltage circuit is invalidated. He further shows a frequency control voltage section (3), to which a voltage is supplied.

Claim 2, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gray (US 4,142,161). Gray shows (fig. 2) a piezoelectric oscillator comprising a piezo-oscillator including a piezo-vibrator (2), an amplifier circuit (31) and a constant-current circuit (21, 22). He also shows a power source (14).

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The remaining prior art shows piezoelectric oscillation circuits including constant voltage or constant current sources.

The claims which have not been rejected by art are so indefinite that art cannot be applied against them at this time. When they are made definite a consideration of their relationship to the prior art may be made.

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Art Unit: 2834

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Direct inquiry concerning this action to Examiner Dougherty at (703) 308-1628.

tmd  
tmd

January 30, 2002

Thomas M. Dougherty

THOMAS M. DOUGHERTY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 2100

2834